

c2 3. (amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein at least a second portion of said nucleocapsid protein monomers includes a second non-HBV hapten different from said first hapten.

c3 10. (amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein said first hapten is associated with a disease condition caused by an agent selected from the group consisting of: single stranded DNA viruses, double stranded DNA viruses, single stranded RNA viruses, double stranded RNA viruses, intracellular parasites, fungi, bacteria, and cancer.

c4 24. (twice amended) A composition comprising recombinant duck HBcAg; and, a non-HBV hapten, said hapten being linked to said duck HBcAg; wherein said recombinant duck HBcAg is capable of disassembly and reassembly into a particle.

Please refer to the attachment for the marked-up versions of the amended claims. Applicants provide the attachment pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121.

REMARKS

Claims 4-9, 14-23, 26, 28 and 29 are withdrawn via a restriction requirement. Claim 2 is canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter thereof. Claims 1, 3, 10 and 24 are amended. By these amendments, Applicants do not acquiesce to the propriety of any of the Examiner's rejections and do not disclaim any subject matter to which the Applicants are entitled. *Cf. Warner-Jenkinson Co. v. Hilton Davis Chem. Co.*, 41 U.S.P.Q.2d 1865 (U.S. 1997). Further, Applicants reserve the right to file continuation applications directed to the subject matter of any claim withdrawn from consideration for any reason.

Regarding the claims withdrawn in response to the restriction requirement made final in Paper No. 20, Applicants expect that as divisional and/or continuation applications are pursued from the pending application, the USPTO will not issue double-patenting rejections on these non-elected claims, because the USPTO has acknowledged by the restriction requirement that such claims are patentably distinct from those claims prosecuted presently.

Claims 1, 3, 10-13, 24, 25 and 27 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 3, 10 and 24 have been amended. Support for amended claims 1, 3, 10, and 24 exists throughout the